

B) IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a heated food product comprising: pre-forming food product into a portion having a substantially uniformed pre-determined thickness; sealing the food portion into an envelope formed from a film to produce a flexible package, at least one of the seals of the package being peelable under conditions of elevated temperature and pressure within the envelope to vent the envelope during heating; placing the package between the plates of a clam-shell heater; closing the plates of the clam-shell heater to contact both major faces of the package; heating the food product in the claim-shell clam-shell heater; removing the food product and envelope from the clam-shell heater; removing the food product from the envelope; and discarding the envelope.

2. (Original) A package for carrying out the method of claim 1, the package comprising: a food product contained within a sealed envelope of film material, the envelope being flexible and comprising a first structural layer and a second coating layer, the coating layer being heat sealable to seal the envelope, the seals being peelable at a predetermined temperature and internal pressure to vent the package during heating.

3. (Currently Amended) A package according to claim 2 wherein, in addition to the structural layer and the coating layer the film comprises a further layer, ~~preferably a further structural layer of PET~~.

4. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein a layer of pigment or indicia is laminated within the film material.

5. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the first structural layer is of PET.

6. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the envelope has a longitudinal sealed seam and transverse end sealed seams and is of generally pillow-like configuration.

7. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the envelope is made in-situ around the food product.

8. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the food product is cooked before the envelope is formed.

9. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the film remains intact at temperatures of up to at least 425.degree. F.

10. (Original) A package according to claim 2, wherein the package is deep frozen.

11. (New) A package according to claim 2 wherein, in addition to the structural layer and the coating layer, the film further comprises a structural layer of PET.